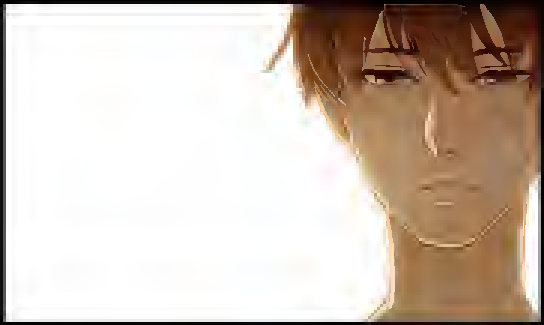
FOUR YEARS AGO,
'HOME' BECAME QUIET...

AFTER DAD TOOK OFF, MOM WOULD JUST SIT IN HER BEDROOM... SOMETIMES FOR HOURS AT A TIME.

HER EMPTY EYES FIXATED ON A RING
RESTING IN HER OPEN PALM...

IT ONCE MEANT SOMETHING.



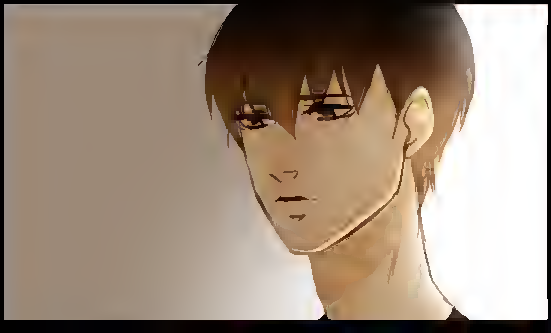
MOM, I PUT COEN TO SLEEP. CAN I GO OUT FOR A WHILE?

... MOM?

FLINCH!

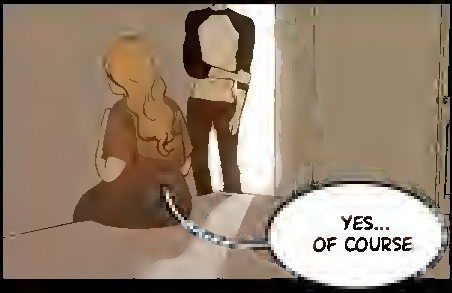
AH...
I'M SORRY, SHON...

YOU RESEMBLE YOUR FATHER SO MUCH... FOR A MOMENT I ALMOST THOUGHT...

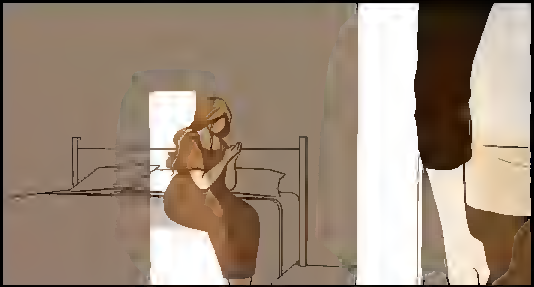


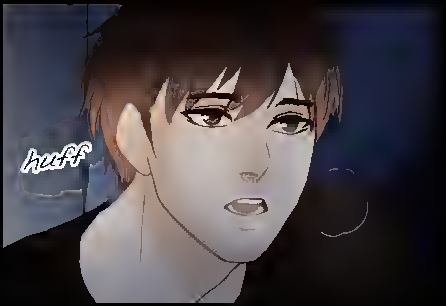
I CAN'T REMEMBER THE LAST TIME SHE ACTUALLY LOOKED ME IN THE EYE.

... CAN I GO
OVER TO LYRA'S?


YES...
OF COURSE

'KAY, THANKS.
I WON'T BE OUT
TOO LATE.



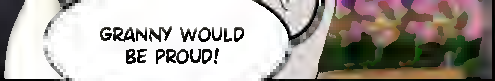

huff

Siren's Lament

EPISODE 16: HOME

trim

NOT BAD. IF
I DO SAY SO MYSELF.


GRANNY WOULD BE PROUD!

AH, I KNOW! I'LL TAKE A PICTURE OF IT AND SHOW GRANNY WHEN I VISIT HER...

SIGH...

knock
knock

... SHON?

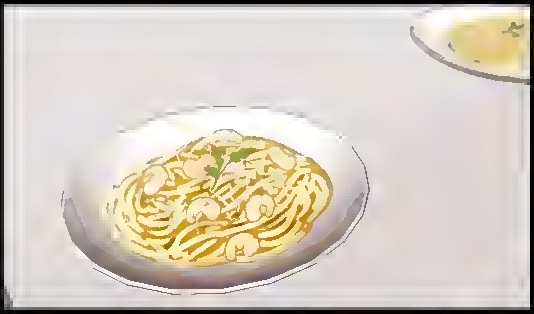
HEY, LYR.
YOU BUSY?

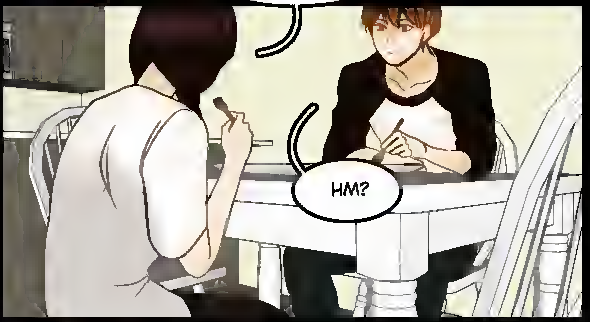
NOPE. I WAS JUST WORKING ON A FLORAL ARRANGEMENT. COME INSIDE.
WORKING? AT THIS HOUR?

YEAH, I FINISHED MY HOMEWORK EARLY, SO I WANTED TO KEEP MYSELF OCCUPIED—
DARN IT. IF I HAD KNOWN HE WERE COMING

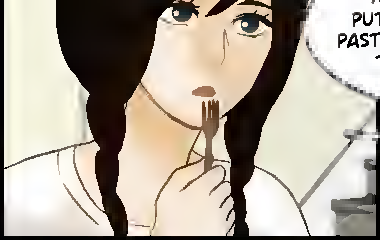
I WOULD HAVE WORN NICER CLOTHES
DID YOU EAT DINNER YET?

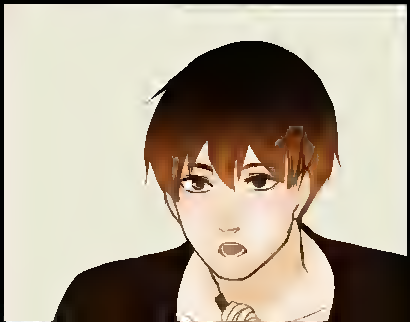
MOM MADE WAAAY TOO MUCH FOOD AGAIN


YOU LEFT OUT THE TOMATOES.


HM?

YOUR MOM ALWAYS


PUTS TOMATOES IN HER PASTA... YOU MADE IT THIS TIME, DIDN'T YOU?

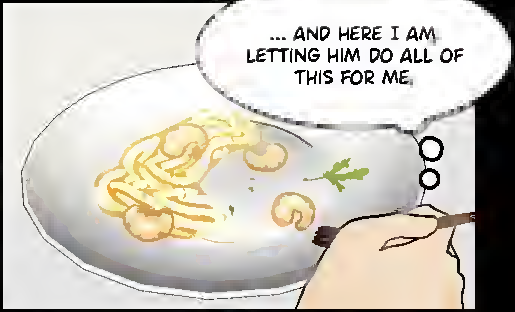


OMPH

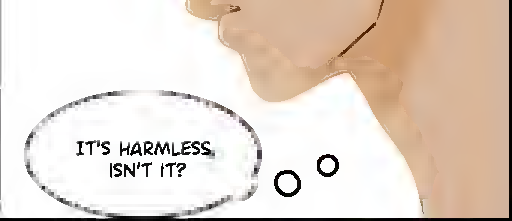
S'RRY, CANFF TAHK MOUFF IF FURR.
I BET THAT LINE GETS ALL THE LADIES.

SUCH A LIAR
YOU KNOW I HATE
TOMATOES
OO

JUST LIKE HOW YOU KNOW I HATE EATING ALONE...

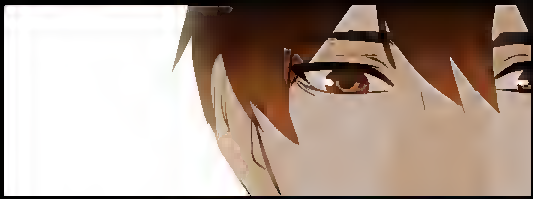

... AND HERE I AM, LETTING HIM DO ALL OF THIS FOR ME.

... IS THAT SELFISH OF ME?

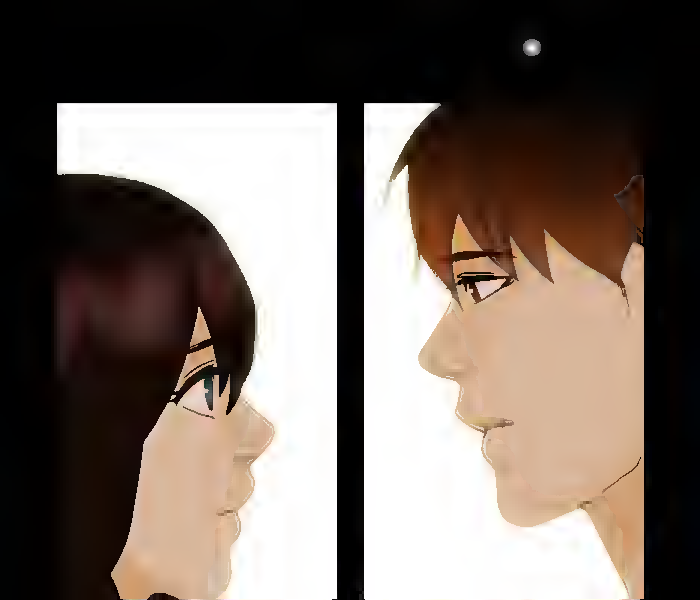


BECAUSE...

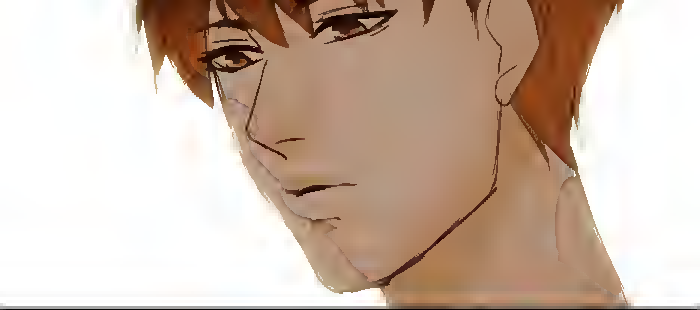
WITH YOU HERE...



IT FEELS LIKE 'HOME' AGAIN.



I'LL DO WHATEVER IT TAKES
TO PROTECT IT THIS TIME.

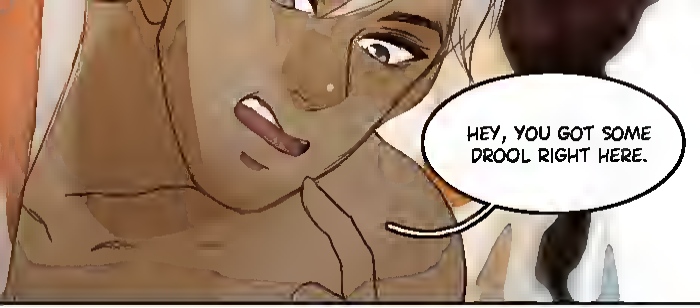


EVEN IF IT MEANS...

SHON?

WERE YOU WAITING HERE THIS WHOLE TIME...?

A DREAM?

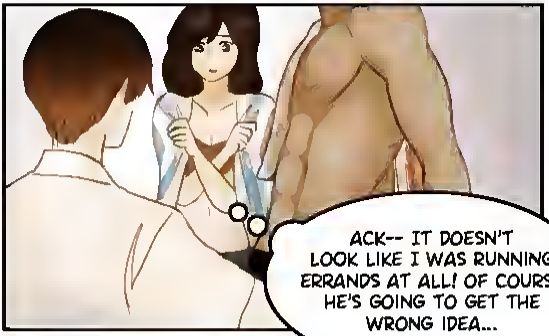

HEY, YOU GOT SOME DROOL RIGHT HERE.

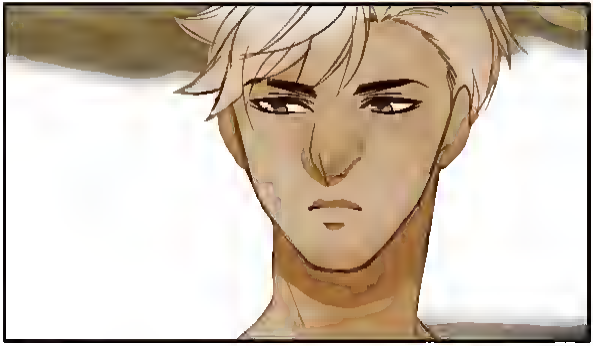
LYR--?

WERE YOU WAITING LONG?

NO, I WAS JUST--
WERE YOU...

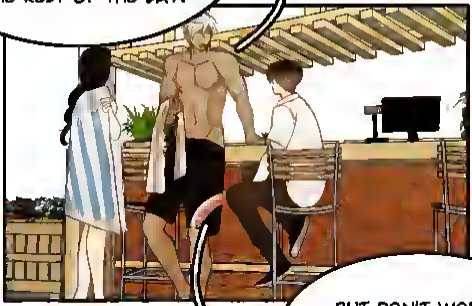
ABLE TO GET YOUR ERRANDS DONE?



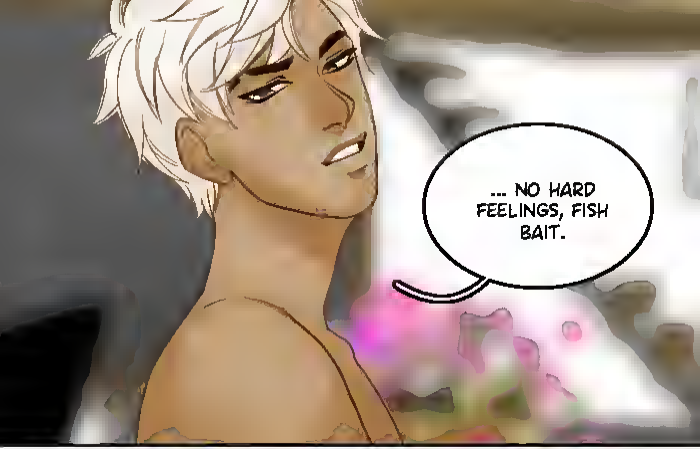


NAH. WE HAD NO LUCK GETTING A HOLD OF ANYONE USEFUL, SO I

TRICKED HER INTO TAKING ME TO THE BEACH FOR THE REST OF THE DAY.

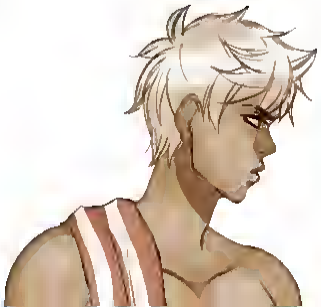


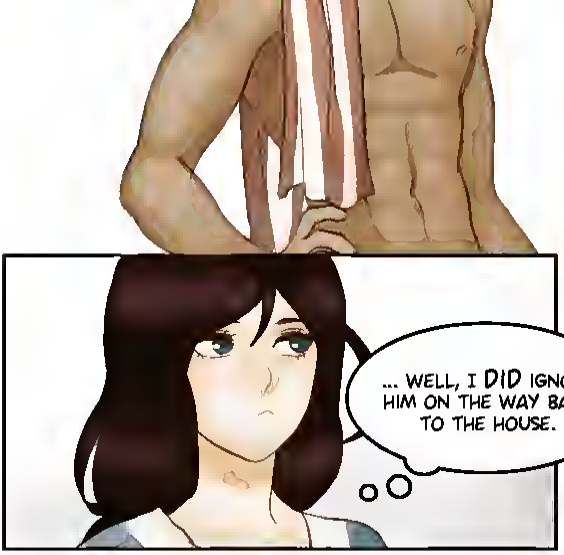
BUT DON'T WORRY, DUDE. YOU DIDN'T MISS OUT ON ANYTHING GREAT.


... NO HARD FEELINGS, FISH BAIT.

?

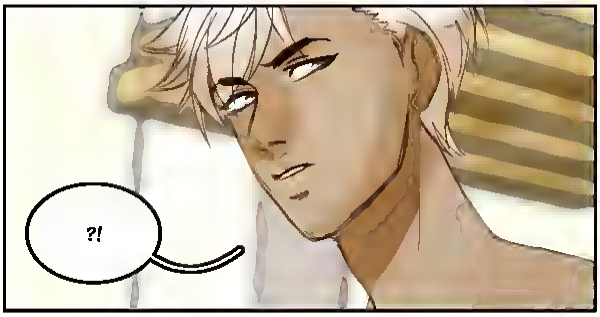
IS IAN...


TRYING
TO APOLOGIZE FOR
EARLIER...?


... WELL, I DID IGNORE HIM ON THE WAY BACK TO THE HOUSE.

MHM. NO HARD FEELINGS.

I SEE.
shift



glint

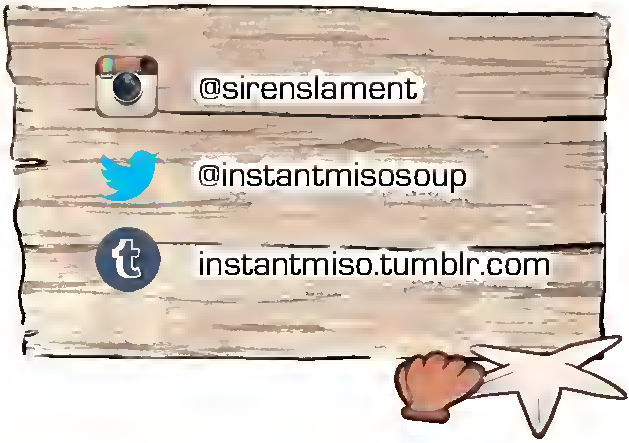
vanish
HIS HEART ONLY ILLUMINATED FOR A SPLIT SECOND-- IS THAT POSSIBLE?!

BUT HOW...

WHAT'S WITH
THIS GUY...?

Siren's Lament

instantmiso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